



green tips

GREEN WEEK 2014

"Energy Day" - February 10

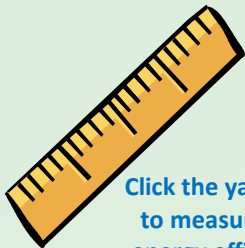
DID YOU KNOW?

- The City Council passed a State "Energy Independent Community" resolution in November 2008. This resolution commits the City to obtain 25% renewable energy by the year 2025.
- The City of Eau Claire recently installed solar hot water panels at Park Tower Apartments public housing.
- Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) use up to 75% less energy than standard bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, and on average can save you more than \$30 in energy costs over their lifetime.

video:



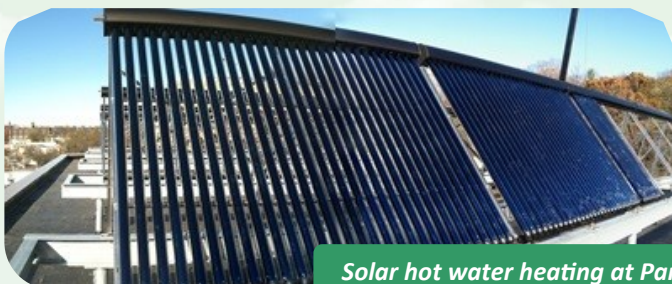
"TURN IT DOWN"
STARRING ROD



Click the yardstick
to measure the
energy efficiency
of your home!

EVERYDAY "GREEN" ENERGY TIPS:

- Conduct a home energy audit to estimate your energy use.
- Use shades, blinds and drapes to help with the heating and cooling of your home.
- Seal cracks and gaps around windows, doors, and siding to help prevent heat or cooling loss.
- Use dimmer switches on indoor lights and timers or motion sensors on outdoor lights.
- Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust the heat at bedtime and while you are away at work.
- Fill your clothes washer and dishwasher—full loads are most efficient.
- Purchase **Energy Star qualified products**.
- The U.S. Department of Energy recommends turning off your computer monitor if you're not going to use it for more than 20 minutes and turning off the whole system if you're not going to use it for more than 2 hours. This can extend the life of your machine and also save you money.
- Make sure exhaust pipes and fresh air intakes for furnaces are free from blockage by snow or frost build up. Even partially blocked intakes or exhausts can result in poor fuel efficiency and incomplete burn of fuels.
- Frequent checks on your furnaces and heat system components help you spot component failures before they happen. Just listening to your system running for a minute each day helps you pick up on a change to a fan blower or other component that can be investigated and repaired before total failure.
- If you use a hot water system for heat, contact your contractor for a tune up and to make sure your system is moving water the way it should be. Valves that become stuck partially open or closed can cause inefficient and uneven heating, but often go unnoticed unless the effect in an area of the heated space is dramatically too hot or too cold. Your contractor may also be able to reduce your maximum water temperature which can produce significant fuel savings.



Solar hot water heating at Park Tower

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Environmental Working Group
Energy Star
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
Xcel Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Midwest Renewable Energy Association